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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (previously amended) A method for classifying blocks of data comprising
2 the steps of:
 - 3 capturing a block of non-textual data using a recording device
 - 4 for which settings for data-capture attributes are indicative of characteristics of
 - 5 said non-textual data;
 - 6 linking meta-data with said block of non-textual data, said
 - 7 meta-data corresponding to at least one said data-capture attribute during
 - 8 said capture by said recording device;
 - 9 performing automated processing to assign description to
 - 10 contents of said block, including utilizing said meta-data in determining said
 - 11 description by operations within a progression of decisional nodes, said
 - 12 progression of decisional nodes being configured to invoke algorithms for
 - 13 selectively assigning descriptions to said blocks of data; and
 - 14 enabling utilization of said descriptions assigned by said
 - 15 operations within said progression of decisional nodes to implement searches
 - 16 for particular said blocks of data via query matching.
- 1 2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of capturing includes
2 recording at least one of an image file by an image-capture device and audio
3 file by an audio recorder.
- 1 3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of linking includes
2 obtaining exposure information that identifies an exposure setting of said
3 recording device.

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1 4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of capturing further
2 includes configuring said block as a file of non-textual data in a digital format
3 and wherein said step of linking includes forming a tag to said file, said tag
4 being indicative of a plurality of exposure time, automatic gain, film speed,
5 shutter speed, white balance, aperture/lens index, focusing index, and
6 flash/no flash operation.

1 5. (original) The method of claim 1 further including a step of transmitting
2 said block of said non-textual data and said meta-data from said recording
3 device to a computer for performing said automated processing.

1 6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said automated processing
2 includes analyzing said non-textual data and said meta-data to identify
3 content-based information and manipulating said content-based information to
4 derive said description.

1 7. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein said step of analyzing includes
2 applying digital signal processing (DSP) to said non-textual data.

1 8. (cancelled)

1 9. (previously amended) A system for classifying subject data comprising:
2 a recording device for capturing non-textual subject data and for
3 recording meta-data, said meta-data being specific to an operational mode of
4 said recording device during capturing of said non-textual subject data; and
5 a processor configured to implement a classification technique,
6 said classification technique including a decision tree capable of invoking
7 algorithms that utilize both of said non-textual subject data and said meta-data
8 for identifying at least one classifier, said classifier being representative of an
9 attribute of said subject data, said processor being further configured to
10 implement searches for specific said non-textual subject data via query
11 matching to classifiers identified by said classification technique.

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1 10. (original) The system of claim 9 wherein said recording device is a digital
2 camera.

1 11. (original) The system of claim 9 wherein said operational mode of said
2 recording device is based on a state as determined by at least one of
3 exposure time, auto gain setting, film speed, shutter speed, white balance,
4 aperture/lens index, focusing distance, and flash/no flash operation.

1 12. (original) The system of claim 9 wherein said classification technique is a
2 sequential progression of decision making comprising a plurality of
3 classification nodes, at least some of said classification nodes including
4 algorithms for determining which of a plurality of alternative next classification
5 nodes is to be encountered in said sequential progression of decision making.

1 13. (original) The system of claim 9 wherein said classification technique is a
2 neural network having an input stage, an output stage and at least one
3 decision-making stage, said decision-making stage comprising a plurality of
4 classification nodes, at least some of said classification nodes configured to
5 receive a plurality of weighted inputs from other classification nodes within
6 said decision-making stage and from said input stage for generating an output
7 as a basis for identifying classifiers.

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1 14. (currently amended) A method of categorizing files of non-textual data
2 comprising the steps of:
3 establishing an evaluation system for decision making, including
4 using automated processing techniques to define a plurality of algorithms,
5 said algorithms utilizing both of content-based data and meta-data, said
6 content-based data corresponding to content information of a file of said
7 non-textual data and said meta-data corresponding to data-capturing
8 settings of a data-capturing device during capture of said file of non-textual
9 data, said establishing including a learning procedure in which said meta-data
10 is identified for each of a plurality of learning images, said meta-data for each
11 said learning image being indicative of operational conditions of said
12 data-capturing device during capture of said learning image;
13 capturing a file of non-textual subject data;
14 processing said file of non-textual subject data through said
15 evaluation system for decision making to selectively identify a plurality of
16 classifiers associated with said file of non-textual subject data, said evaluation
17 system including a progression of decisional nodes configured to invoke said
18 algorithms so as to selectively identify said plurality of classifiers; and
19 enabling utilization of said plurality of classifiers identified by
20 said evaluation system for decision making to implement searches for said file
21 via query matching.

1 15. (cancelled)

1 16. (currently amended) The method of claim 14 ~~[[15]]~~ further comprising a
2 step of generating a plurality of learning classifiers that are descriptive of said
3 learning images, said step of generating including applying content-based
4 analysis for said content-based data and meta-data analysis for said meta-
5 data.